

Quarterly Performance Report

***1st Quarter
SFY 2005***

(July – September)

**Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services
Quality Assurance Unit**

Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.

December 2004

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is distributed to Division of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) managers and to the legislative committees dealing with children and youth. The QPR for the first quarter of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2005, specifically July through September 2004, consists of three parts:

1. **Performance Indicators**, which provide information on service outcomes, such as:
 - a. *Percentage of Families with a True Allegation of Child Maltreatment Three Months, Six Months and One Year After a Previous True Report*
 - b. *Percentage of Siblings in Placement who Are Placed Together*
 - c. *Percentage of Children Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights*
2. **Compliance Index**, which reports on the Division's compliance with requirements set by DCFS with guidance from the Arkansas legislative children and youth committees, such as:
 - a. *Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments*
 - b. *24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care*
 - c. *Foster Home Recruitment*
3. **Description of Population and Services**, which describes the children who were the subjects of maltreatment reports, were served in foster care and were provided adoption services, such as:
 - a. *Types of Allegations in Child Maltreatment Reports*
 - b. *Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care*
 - c. *Characteristics of Children Placed in Adoptive Homes*

The QPR provides this information on a quarterly basis, showing trends over time. This provides the agency with information on the populations it serves and on pertinent issues so the agency may better target its efforts at improving performance.

Part I: Performance Indicators

DCFS has established nine performance indicators to measure its progress with regard to its major goals of child safety, permanency and well-being. During the first quarter DCFS continued its efforts toward meeting these goals. Overall, DCFS maintained its past success in those efforts. Therefore, there were no noteworthy areas to address this quarter.

Part II: Compliance Index

DCFS has set compliance measures with guidance from the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth. An index is compiled by reporting the level of compliance with these measures.

There are six noteworthy areas to address this quarter, as shown below.

- **Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments**

The percentage for timely initiations stood at **86 percent**, one percentage point higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 95 percent.

Staffing remains a major issue in several areas of the state:

- It is expected that a change in area management in one area will result in increased leadership and stabilization of the work force. That area will be in a rebuilding mode for several months. That area increased compliance with initiation requirements for both Priority One and Priority Two investigations from last quarter.
- Several areas that are experiencing staffing shortages anticipate that their staffing situation will stabilize by the first of the year with the addition of newly hired caseworkers or supervisors. Until then temporarily reassigned staff and supervisors are assisting with investigations.
- One area also instituted additional tracking of initiations of investigations.

- Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage for timely completions stood at **55 percent**, five percentage points higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 90 percent.

Percentages for completion of Priority II investigations within required timeframes increased by over four percentage points from last quarter (51%), with Priority I compliance increasing nearly 12 percentage points from last quarter (44%).

Staffing remains a major issue in several areas of the state:

- It is expected that a change in area management in one area will result in increased leadership and stabilization of the work force. That area will be in a rebuilding mode for several months. That area increased compliance with completion requirements for Priority I investigations from last quarter.
- Several areas that are experiencing staffing shortages anticipate that their staffing situation will stabilize by the first of the year with the addition of newly hired caseworkers or supervisors. Until then temporarily reassigned staff and supervisors are assisting with investigations.
- Several areas are instituting new, additional tracking procedures for completion of investigations.

- 24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care

The percentage for 24-hour initial health screenings stood at **91 percent**, 14 percentage points higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 95 percent.

The percentage for 72-hour initial health screenings stood at **86 percent**, one percentage point lower than the previous quarter and below the goal of 95 percent.

Twenty-four hour health screenings were an issue in two areas, while 72-hour screenings were an issue in four areas. Areas are putting in place new internal tracking mechanisms as well as working on provider capacity issues.

- Comprehensive Health Assessments

The percentage for completed health assessments stood at **87 percent**, two percentage points lower than the previous quarter and below the goal of 95 percent.

Seven out of ten areas struggled with assuring timely comprehensive health assessments, although none had compliance less than 79 percent. Staffing was an issue in several areas. That situation is improving in all areas. In addition, several areas instituted new procedures to be able to track completion of assessments more closely.

- Foster Home Recruitment

There were 52 new foster homes recruited during the first quarter, 29 less than the goal of 80. This represented a compliance rate of **64 percent**.

DCFS has developed a statewide Foster Home Recruitment Plan. At the end of State Fiscal Year 2004, DCFS had 1,050 foster family homes. Throughout the year, we added 399 foster homes and closed 352 homes. During the year, over 6,000 children were in the custody of DCFS. Sixty-three percent of the children needed placement in non-relative foster homes. Not only does DCFS need more foster homes, but we need homes that are willing to accept the children we have in care. Our recruitment efforts will target foster homes that will meet our needs for homes for teens, African-American children, siblings, and children with physical, behavioral and emotional problems.

A primary strategy for recruitment of foster parents will be to use resources already available to us to help increase awareness and educate the public about our need for foster families. We will reach out to others who share our common interest in the well-being of children. We know that not everyone is interested in becoming a foster parent, but they may know someone who is. Our messages will be “Each one tell one” and “One person can make a difference”. Our recruitment efforts will encourage others to pass the information on to their family members, their friends, their church members, and their co-workers. We will begin with educating the other Divisions within the Department of Human Services and expand into other areas such as the faith community, service providers, social and professional organizations, the business community, and the general public.

Another strategy will be to include our foster parents in our recruitment activities. Many foster parents already devote time and effort to recruiting other foster parents. Our plan includes making this activity more formal by meeting with foster parents to discuss the plan, inviting them to help us and by providing them recruitment materials to use.

The Division has formed a Recruitment Committee with staff from the field and central office to form a Recruitment Committee. The committee will guide and monitor the objectives and tasks of the plan. The goal of our recruitment plan is to recruit foster families in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of children in foster care. In order to meet this goal, we plan to accomplish the following objectives:

Objective: Increase awareness and education of DCFS and DHS staff concerning the need for foster homes.

Objective: Enlist the support of DCFS Foster Parents to assist in recruitment efforts.

Objective: Increase awareness and education of the community concerning foster care needs.

Objective: Support Area and County recruitment plans and efforts.

Objective: Coordinate with Adoption recruitment efforts. DCFS received a five-year grant from the Administration for Children and Families to recruit families for children in foster care that are waiting for adoptive homes. As foster families are about 50 percent of our adoptive parents, historically, we will utilize the energy generated by grant activities to recruit both foster and adoptive parents.

- Required Visits Made by Worker

The percentages for required weekly visits that were made during the quarter were **10 percent** in July, **11 percent** in August and **11 percent** in September (compared to eight percent in April and May and 14 percent in June) and were also below the goal of 85 percent.

Staffing issues continue to be a major problem in several areas and may severely impact the worker's ability to complete visits as required by current policy.

Required visits to children in foster care remained unacceptably low. As the QPR narrative explains, this index only counts face-to-face visits by the child's worker in the foster home. Other staff, for instance an Independent Living Coordinator, could visit the child in the home and it would not be counted as compliance; or, the worker could call the child or visit the child at school or in court and it would not count toward compliance.

DCFS acknowledges the importance of worker contact with children in foster care and believes that these visits should often be in the home. However, DCFS believes a change in policy that would recognize that some visits in other locations may also meet good practice objectives would be appropriate. DCFS has developed a policy that is currently in

the promulgation process that recognizes visits in other locations and by other DCFS staff, with the requirement that the child's worker has to personally continue contact also.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

This section describes the children who were subjects of maltreatment reports, were served in foster care and provided adoption services.

There were no noteworthy areas this quarter, as the different populations of children served this quarter were very similar to previous quarters.

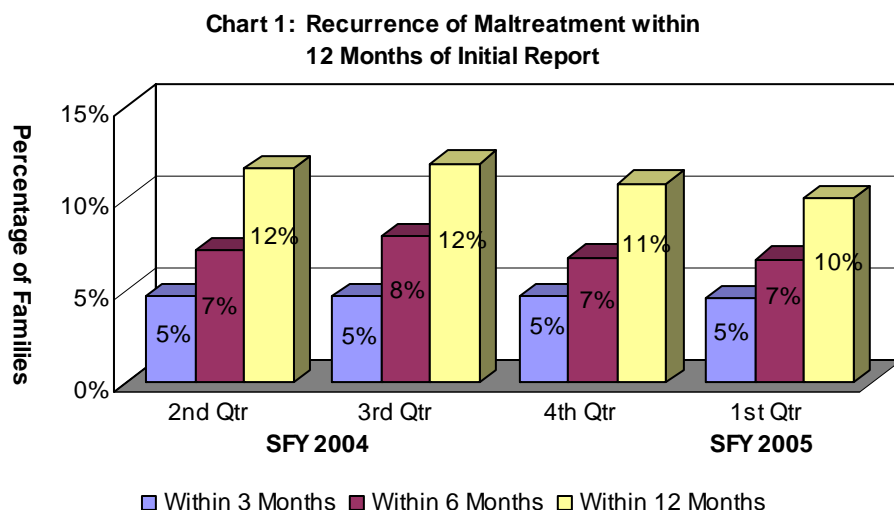
PART I: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Division has established nine performance measures to indicate levels of achievement of its major goals of child safety, family preservation and permanency:

- Percentage of families with true allegations of child maltreatment three months, six months and one year after a previous true report;
- Percentage of foster families with true reports of maltreatment;
- Percentage of children receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Service (IFS) who were abused or neglected within one year of the initiation of services;
- Percentage of children receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Service (IFS) who entered foster care within one year of the initiation of services;
- Percentage of children in foster care who returned home within eighteen months;
- Percentage of children in foster care who have experienced more than three placements within the past eighteen months;
- Percentage of siblings in foster care who are placed together;
- Percentage of children living with adoptive families within twelve months of the termination of parental rights; and
- Number of Children placed in pre-adoptive homes whose adoptions were finalized within twelve months of entering a pre-adoptive placement.

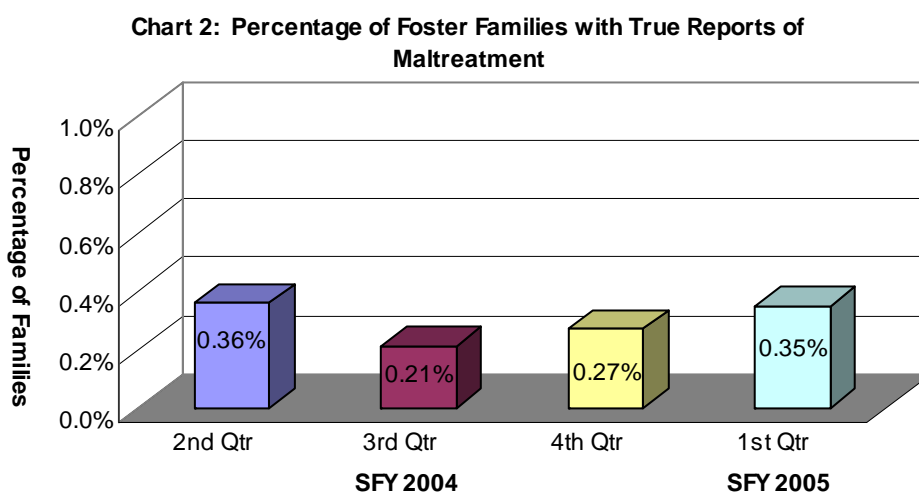
Percentage of Families with a True Allegation of Child Maltreatment Three Months, Six Months and One Year after a Previous True Report

There were 139 subsequent true reports within 12 months of an initial true report; 45 percent involved both the same perpetrator and the same type of maltreatment as the initial report¹.



Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment

Of the 30 foster home maltreatment reports received during the first quarter, five were found to be true. Based upon 1,445 active foster homes² during the quarter, the percentage of foster families with true reports of maltreatment was .35 percent.



¹ The remaining 55 percent of the subsequent reports were distributed as follows: No repetition of perpetrator or type of abuse – 26 percent; Same perpetrator only – 12 percent; Same type of abuse only – 17 percent.

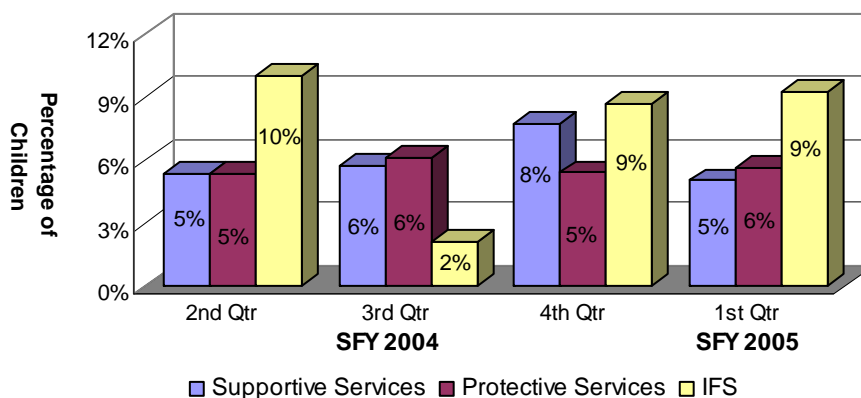
² This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Generally, families receiving Supportive Services have less severe problems. However, Families receiving Intensive Family Services (IFS) are, by definition, in imminent risk of having one or more children placed in foster care or already have children in foster care. Families receiving Protective Services generally fall somewhere between those extremes.

Of the 230 children who began receiving Supportive Services between July and September 2003, 11 (5%) experienced a true report of maltreatment within one year. Of the 2,434 children who began receiving Protective Services, 136 (6%) children were involved in a true report within one year. Five children (9%) of the 54 who began receiving IFS services during that same time were also involved in a true report within one year.

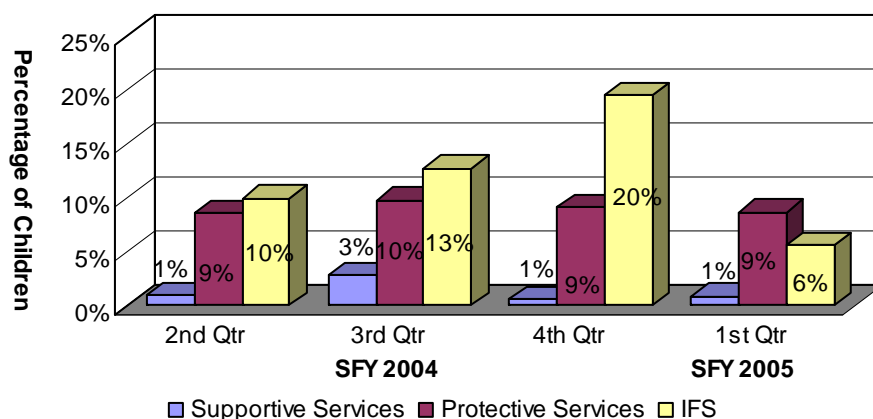
Chart 3: Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services



Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Two of the 230 children who began receiving Supportive Services, 212 of the 2,454 children who began receiving Protective Services and three of the 54 children who began receiving IFS services between July and September 2003 entered foster care within a year.

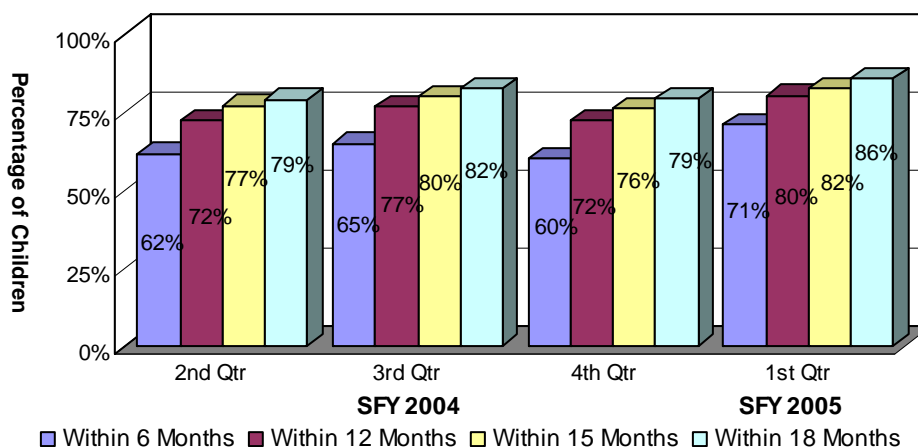
Chart 4: Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services



Percentage of Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months

There were 947 children who entered foster care during the prior 18 months. Of those, 86 percent or 811 children returned home within 18 months.

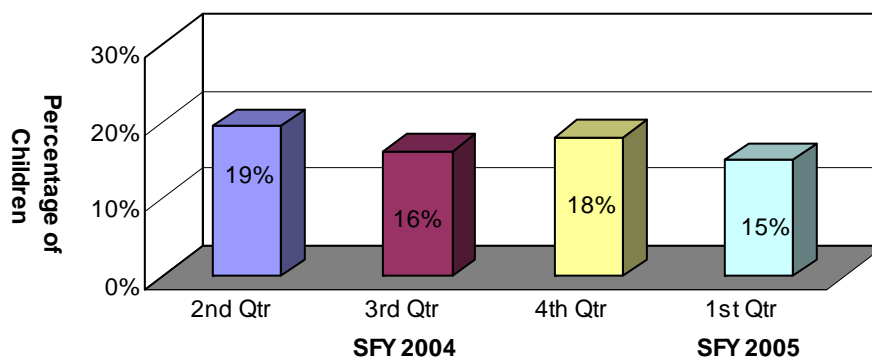
Chart 5: Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months



Percentage of Children in Foster Care who have Experienced more than Three Placements within the Past Eighteen Months

Of the 947 children who entered foster care 18 months prior to the current quarter, 139 children (15%) have experienced more than three placements. This represents a three percentage point decrease from the previous quarter. Of those same 947 children, 129 (14%) experienced more than three placements within 15 months of entering foster care. DCFS commissioned a special study on this issue which revealed that children who experience the most placements are older children or children with behavioral problems³. The agency is working with the Division of Mental Health Services, the Division of Medical Services and the Council of Community Health Centers on the development of a more adequate system of services for children who experience these problems.

Chart 6: Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Three or More Placements within the Past Eighteen Months

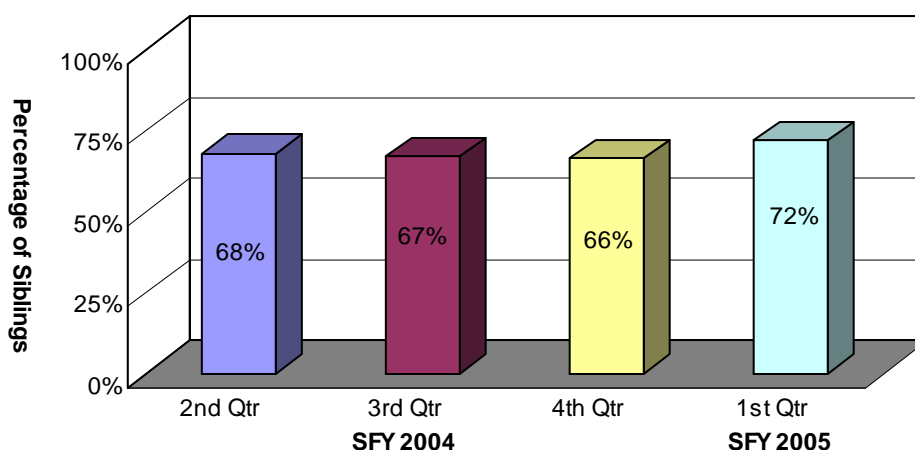


³ "Multiple Placements of Children in Foster Care," SFY 2003.

Percentage of Siblings in Placement who are Placed Together

During the first quarter, there were 1,601 foster children with siblings that were also in care. Seventy-two percent of those children (1,153 children) were placed with at least one of their siblings, higher than the previous quarter. Of those same 1,601 children, 818 (51%) were placed with all their siblings, which was higher than the previous quarter. These figures do not exclude children who have been placed separately for valid reasons such as safety issues or court orders.

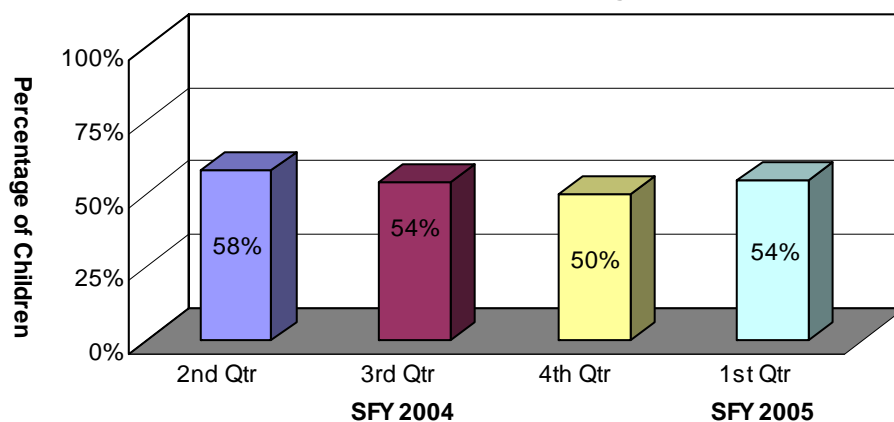
Chart 7: Siblings in Care who are Placed Together



Percentage of Children Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights

Of the 96 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated between July and September 2003, 52 (54%) were placed in an adoptive home within 12 months of the termination of parental rights, which was higher than the previous quarter.

Chart 8: Children Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights



Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes whose Adoptions were Finalized within Twelve Months of Entering Placement

There were 72 children who were placed in pre-adoptive homes between July and September 2003. Of those, 57 children (79%) had finalized adoptions within 12 months of being placed in the pre-adoptive home. Eleven children (15%) experienced disruptions, which occurs when a child has been placed in a pre-adoptive home and the family or the child decides not to proceed with the adoption and the child subsequently leaves the pre-adoptive home.

There were 12 children whose adoptions were still pending finalization 12 months after their placement in an adoptive home.

**Table 1: Children Placed in a Pre-adoptive Homes whose Adoptions were Finalized within Twelve Months of Entering a Placement
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Adoption Status	No. of Children
Children Placed in a Pre-adoptive Home	72
Finalized Adoption	57
Disrupted Adoptive Placements	11
Children with a Disruption who were Re-placed in a Pre-adoptive Home	8
Still Pending after Twelve Months	12

PART II: COMPLIANCE INDEX

The Division has set compliance measures with guidance from the Joint Interim Committee on Children and Youth. An index is compiled by reporting the level of compliance in relation to these measures.

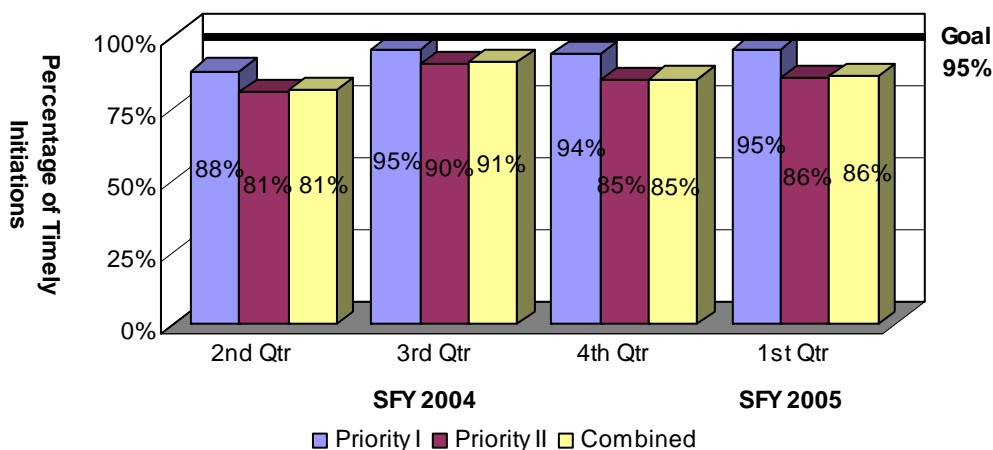
<u>Goal</u>	<u>Compliance Measure</u>
95%	<i>Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments.</i> Timely initiation means the investigator interviews or observes the victim child outside the presence of the alleged offender within 24 hours of any report of alleged severe maltreatment or within 72 hours otherwise.
90%	<i>Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments.</i> Timely completion means a determination must be made regarding an allegation of child maltreatment within 30 days of receipt of the allegation.
95%	<i>24-Hour Initial Health Screenings.</i> This screening is conducted within 24 hours after removal from the home on children who enter foster care due to an allegation of severe maltreatment or if there is evidence of acute illness or injury.
95%	<i>72-Hour Initial Health Screenings.</i> This screening is conducted within 72 hours after removal from the home on all children who enter foster care who are not subject to the 24-hour screening.
95%	<i>Comprehensive Health Assessments.</i> The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the physical and mental health status of all foster children and is to be completed within 60 days of a child entering foster care.
80 Homes	<i>Foster Home Recruitment.</i> DCFS must ensure that a sufficient number and variety of foster homes meeting minimal standards and matched to the needs and characteristics of foster children are available. The goal is 80 homes for the quarter or 320 homes for the year.
95%	<i>Foster Home Re-evaluations.</i> DCFS must re-evaluate at least annually each foster home's ability to care for children.
85%	<i>Required Visits Made by Worker.</i> DCFS must provide data on the percentages of required weekly visits made by DCFS workers to children in foster care.

Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Whenever there is an allegation of child maltreatment, the Family Service Worker, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) staff member or other local law enforcement must interview or observe the victim child outside the presence of the alleged offender within 72 hours of the report (Priority II), unless there is an allegation of severe maltreatment, in which case the interview or observation must occur within 24 hours of the report (Priority I). There were 4,953 referrals for child maltreatment assessments during the first quarter. Of that number, 260 Priority I referrals and 3,360 Priority II referrals were assigned to DCFS for investigation. Of the DCFS Priority I referrals, 248 (95%) assessments were initiated within the required 24-hour period. Of the DCFS Priority II referrals, 3,122 (86%) assessments were initiated within the required 72-hour period⁴. The compliance rate for DCFS Priority I initiations was 95 percent and 86 percent for Priority II initiations, which resulted in a combined compliance rate of 86 percent, one percentage point higher than the previous quarter. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

As noted previously, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police is also responsible for handling child abuse assessments. CACD was responsible for 1,333 of the 4,953 referrals that came in during the quarter, of which 1,292 were Priority I referrals and 41 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I referrals, 1,267 assessments (98%) were initiated timely. Of the Priority II referrals, 39 assessments (95%) were initiated in a timely manner.

Chart 9: Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

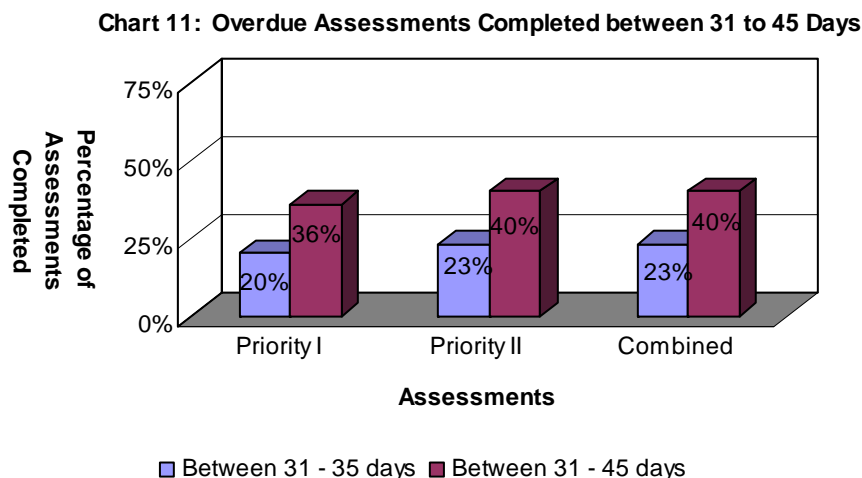
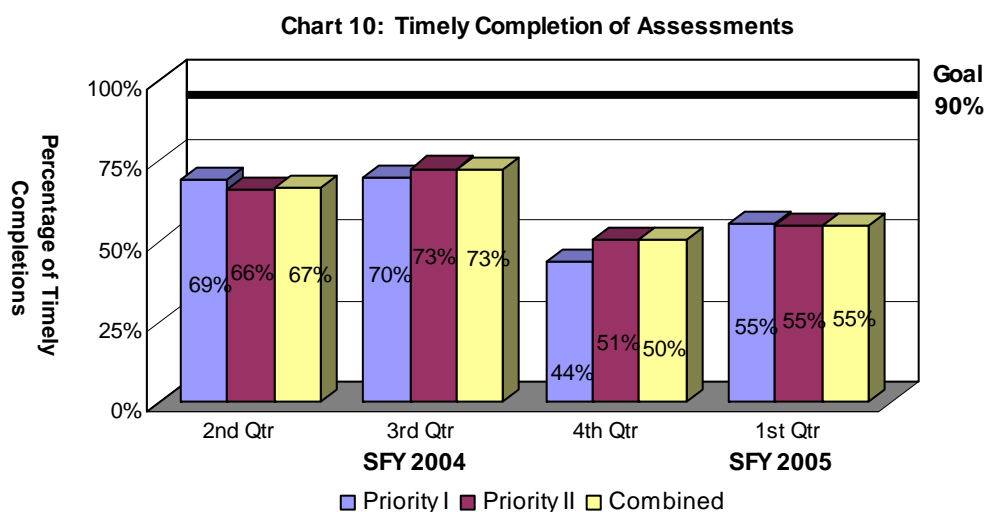


⁴ DCFS had 248 Priority I referrals and 2,874 Priority II referrals that were initiated timely. Of those, 57 Priority I (23%) and 909 Priority II referrals (32%) were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence. CACD had 1,267 Priority I referrals and 39 Priority II referrals that were initiated timely. Of those, 275 Priority I (22%) and 9 Priority II (23%) referrals were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence.

Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Of the 260 DCFS Priority I assessments initiated, 144 (55%) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the 3,360 DCFS Priority II assessments initiated, 1,839 (55%) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the total 3,620 assessments assigned to DCFS, 1,983 assessments were completed in a timely fashion. This resulted in a compliance rate of 55 percent, higher than the fourth quarter but still below the goal of 90 percent. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

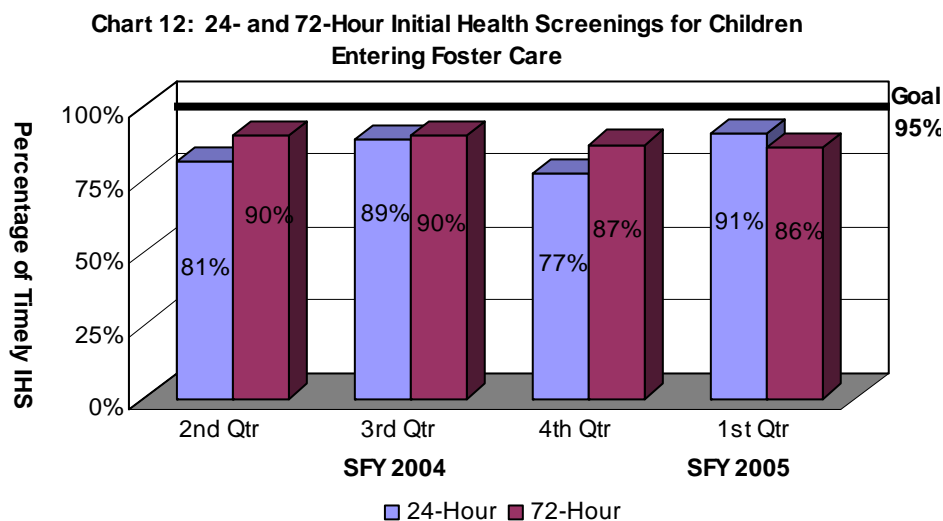
As referenced earlier, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police was responsible for 1,333 of the 4,953 referrals that came in during the quarter, of which 1,292 were Priority I referrals and 41 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I assessments, 1,053 (82%) were completed in a timely fashion. Of the Priority II assessments, 30 (81%) were completed in a timely fashion.



24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care

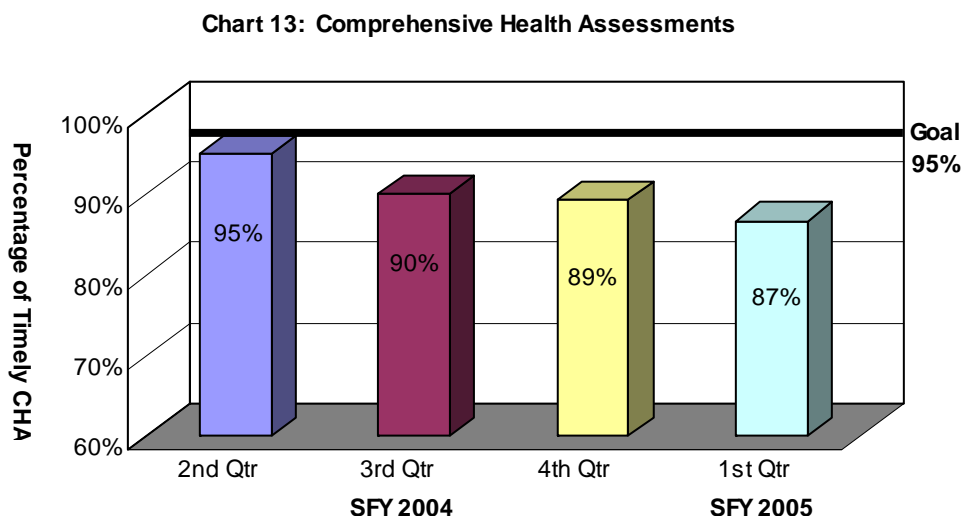
If a child enters foster care due to an allegation of severe maltreatment or if there is evidence of acute illness or injury, an initial health screening must be conducted within 24 hours of the child's removal from the home. Of the 131 children who required the 24-hour health screening during the first quarter, 119 children (91%) received the screening in a timely manner. The compliance rate was higher than the previous quarter but still below the goal of 95 percent.

All children entering foster care that do not require the initial 24-hour health screening (*i.e.*, there is no allegation of severe maltreatment) must undergo an initial health screening within 72 hours of their removal. Of the 662 children who required their health screening within 72 hours, 569 (86%) received their screenings in a timely manner, which was lower than the previous quarter and did not meet the goal of 95 percent. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)



Comprehensive Health Assessments

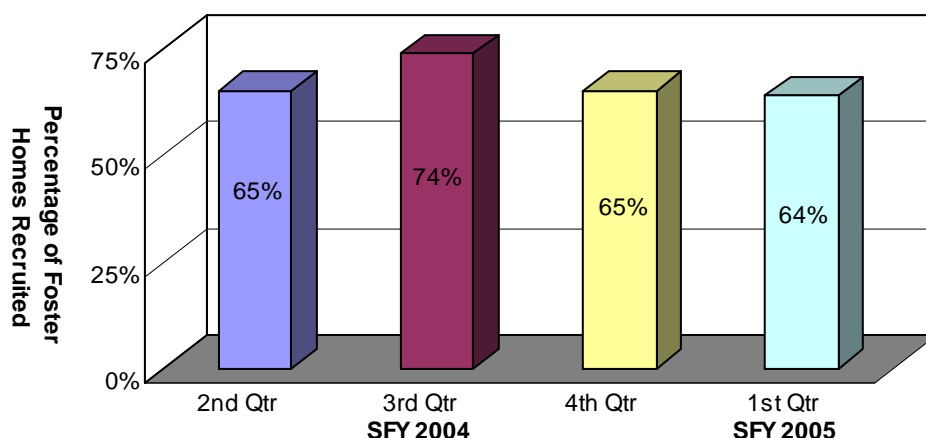
All children who enter foster care must receive a comprehensive health assessment to evaluate their physical and mental health status within 60 days of entering foster care. There were 336 children who entered foster care between May 1, 2004 and August 1, 2004 and who remained in care for at least 60 days. Of those, 416 children received their comprehensive health assessment within 60 days after entering care. The resulting compliance rate was 87 percent, lower than the previous quarter and did not meet the goal of 95 percent. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)



Foster Home Recruitment

There were 51 new foster homes recruited during the first quarter, lower than the goal of 80 new homes. The compliance rate of 64 percent was lower than the previous quarter (65%). (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

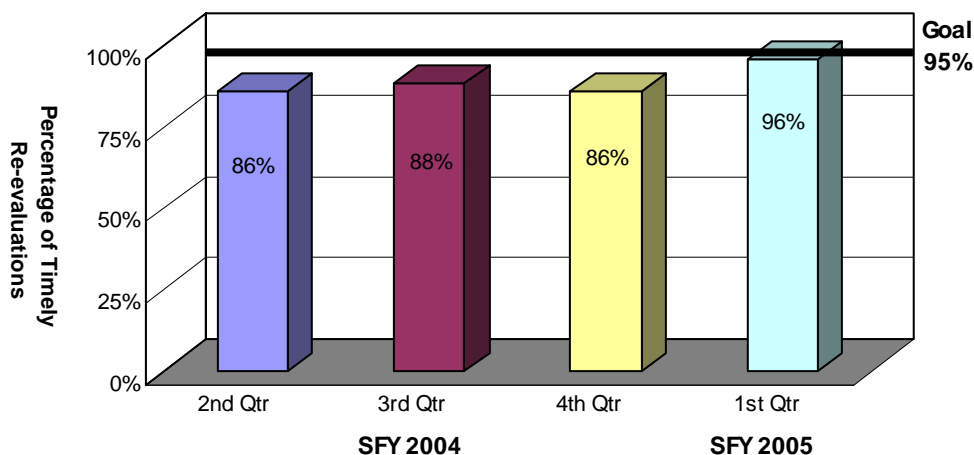
Chart 14: Foster Home Recruitment



Foster Home Re-evaluations

On an annual basis, at a minimum, DCFS is required to re-evaluate each foster home's ability to care for children. Of the 915 DHS foster homes that were active at the end of the first quarter, 882 homes had a completed current re-evaluation. The resulting compliance rate was 96 percent, higher than the previous quarter and also exceeding the goal of 95 percent compliance.

Chart 15: Foster Home Re-evaluations



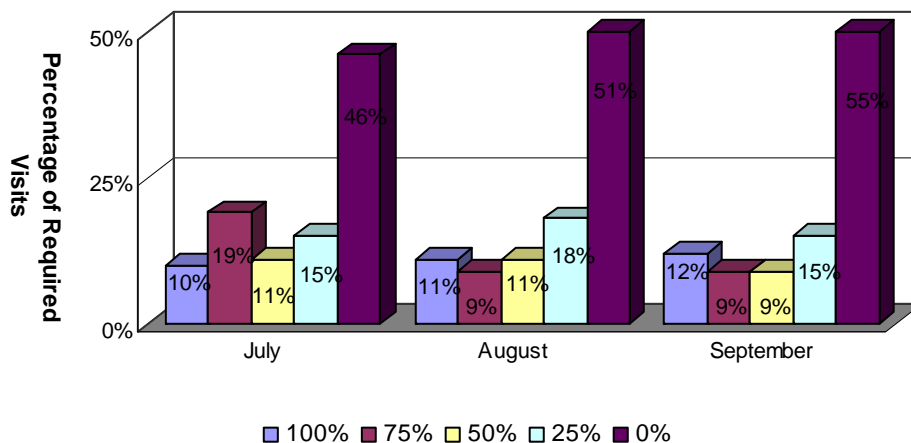
Required Visits Made by Worker

DCFS policy requires that caseworkers make regular visits to children in foster care. The appropriate frequency is considered to be no less than weekly. Supervisors may approve a deviation from this frequency based on the needs of the child and the circumstances of the child's placement.

The information reported here does not include all visits made to or on behalf of children in foster care. The definition of what is measured here is very narrow. The caseworker must have chosen to document the purpose of the visit from a pick list of several different types of visit purposes. In order to meet the necessary criteria, the visit must have occurred in the home. Visits made with the child at school, during a doctor's visit or while providing transportation would not be counted in this report. Therefore, this section does not purport to completely report the frequency of all visits made with children in foster care, but only those visits that meet the appropriate criteria. Each of the graphs on this and the following page shows the data for each month during the quarter.

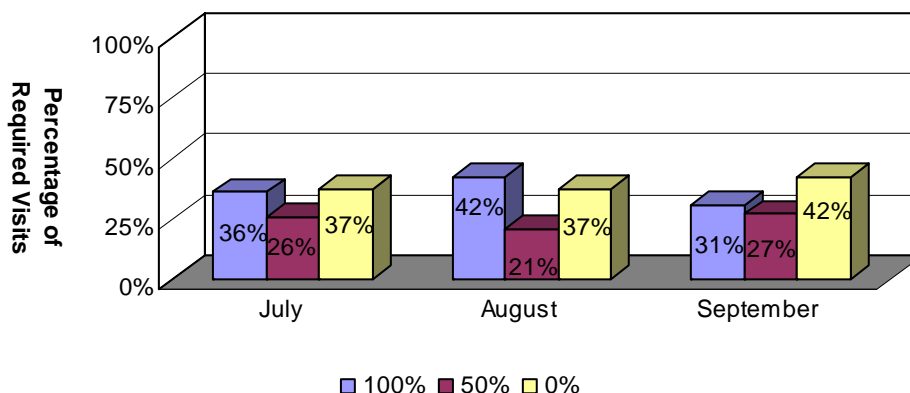
The information reported in the following graph is based on visits made to children for whom weekly visits are necessary. The percentages of children who received all of the required weekly visits increased from ten percent in July to 12 percent in September compared to eight percent in April and May and 14 percent in June. (See plan of action in the Executive Summary.)

Chart 16a: Required Foster Care Weekly Visits Made by Worker



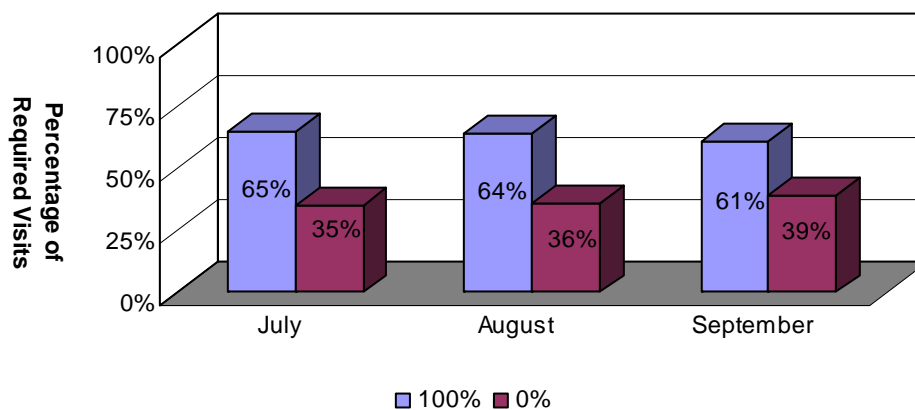
As previously stated, supervisors may approve a deviation from the weekly visit requirement based on the needs of the child and the circumstances of the child's placement. The information reported in the graphs below is based on visits made to children for whom bi-weekly and monthly visits are necessary. As the graph below illustrates, compliance with bi-weekly visitation requirements increased from July to August and then decreased in September.

Chart 16b: Required Foster Care Bi-Weekly Visits Made by Worker



As the following graph illustrates, the percentage of cases meeting monthly visitation requirements decreased from 65 percent in July to 61 percent in September.

Chart 16c: Required Foster Care Monthly Visits Made by Worker



PART III: DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION AND SERVICES

This section describes the number and status of maltreatment assessments, children who were served in foster care and children who were provided adoption services.

Section I outlines characteristics of children such as age, gender and ethnicity in true maltreatment reports and specifically compares state ethnicity data to that of national data. Additionally, this section describes the types of allegations in maltreatment reports.

Section II describes the foster care population. Specifically, it describes the characteristics of children in foster care, entries and exits of children in foster care, reasons children came into care, lengths of stay for children in foster care as well as children in relative care, placements of children in foster care and the number of placements children experience while in care.

Section III focuses on adoption data such as the characteristics of children available for adoption, current placement of those children, characteristics of children placed in adoptive homes, children whose parents have had their parental rights terminated but not placed in an adoptive home, finalized adoptions and adoption subsidies.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

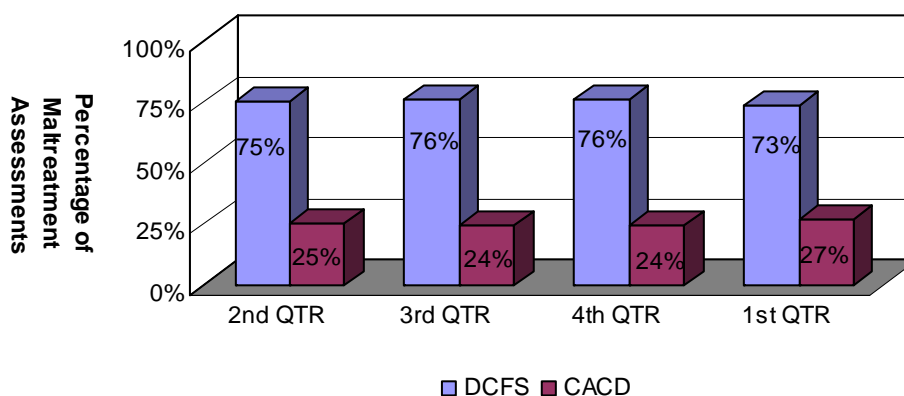
Section I: True Child Maltreatment Reports

Child Maltreatment Assessments

There were 4,953 maltreatment assessments assigned during the first quarter. Of those, 3,620 were assigned to DCFS (73%). This represented a 15 percent decrease in the number of assessments assigned from the previous quarter (4,240).

Of those same 4,953 assessments assigned, 1,333 were assigned to CACD (27%). This represented an eight percent decrease in the number of assessments assigned from the previous quarter (1,441).

Chart 17: Child Maltreatment Assessments



There were 4,953 maltreatment assessments assigned during the first quarter. Of those, 1,194 reports (24%) were found to be true. The national percentage is 27 percent⁵. There were 1,807 victim children involved in the 1,194 true reports during the quarter.

Table 2: Child Maltreatment Assessments

	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
4th Quarter	5,681	1,431	25%
1st Quarter	4,953	1,194	24%

⁵ Source: Child Maltreatment 2002, Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports

There were 1,807 victim children involved in true reports during the first quarter. The table below outlines the demographic information for the victim children during the quarter⁶.

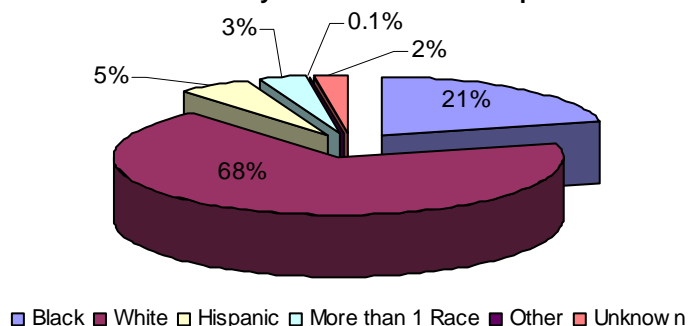
Table 3: Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports
1st Quarter SFY 2005

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	58	26	0	0	0	4	8	95
	Male	74	16	0	0	0	8	5	103
2 to 5	Female	164	47	0	0	0	18	4	233
	Male	160	45	1	0	0	20	10	236
6 to 11	Female	190	67	0	0	0	10	13	280
	Male	173	56	0	0	0	14	6	249
12 to 15	Female	217	71	0	0	0	12	5	305
	Male	98	20	0	0	0	3	4	125
16 to 18	Female	58	19	0	0	0	4	2	83
	Male	33	15	0	0	0	2	2	52
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total*		1,226	381	1	0	0	95	59	1,762

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 45 children.

Of all the children involved in true maltreatment reports, 68 percent were white and 21 percent were black.

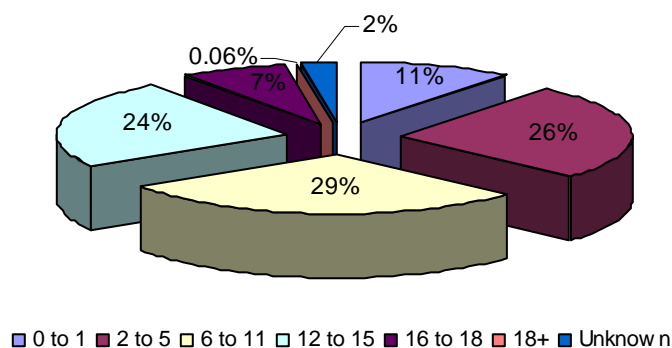
Chart 17a: Ethnicity of Children in True Reports



⁶ Table three, and each subsequent demographic table, divides up "other" races and ethnicities into the following categories: "Hispanic," "More than One Race," "Asian" (includes Indonesian, Cambodian, Hmong and Vietnamese), "AIAN" (includes Native American, Alaskan Native and American Indian) and "NAPI" (includes Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders).

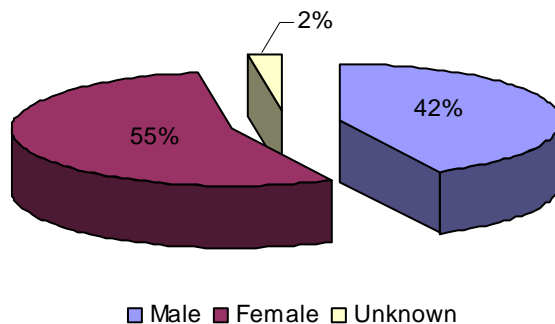
Children between the ages of 6 and 11 represented the largest group of children involved in true maltreatment reports (29%). These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 17b: Ages of Children in True Reports



There were more female children (55%) involved in true maltreatment reports than male children (42%). These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 17c: Gender of Children in True Reports



Children Involved in Allegations of True Maltreatment Reports

The majority of the 1,807 children involved in true maltreatment reports were involved in neglect allegations (62%) during the quarter, followed by sexual abuse allegations (30%) and physical abuse allegations (20%)⁷.

**Table 4: Percentage of Children Involved in True Allegations of Maltreatment
4th Quarter SFY 2004 – 1st Quarter SFY 2005**

	4th Quarter		1st Quarter	
Neglect	1,233	59%	1,122	62%
Physical Abuse	514	25%	360	20%
Sexual Abuse	591	28%	537	30%

⁷ The total number of children represented will outnumber the total children involved in true maltreatment reports because a child can be involved in more than one allegation. Therefore, percentages of children involved in maltreatment reports will be greater than 100 percent.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

Section II: Foster Care

Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

There were 4,030 children in foster care during the first quarter. This includes children who have remained in care from previous quarters as well as children who came into care during the quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of children who were in care during the quarter.

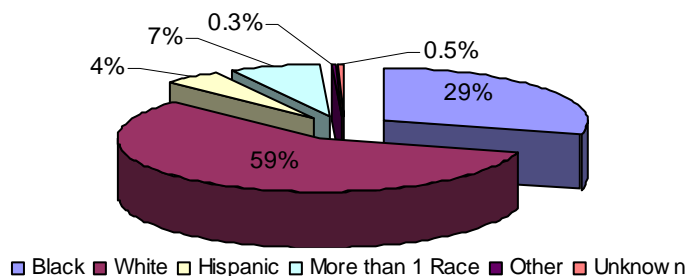
Table 5: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	120	61	0	0	0	16	18	215
	Male	144	53	0	0	0	8	13	218
2 to 5	Female	255	123	2	0	0	28	27	435
	Male	288	121	0	0	1	32	36	478
6 to 11	Female	292	133	2	0	0	24	52	492
	Male	309	135	2	0	0	26	35	507
12 to 15	Female	262	131	0	0	0	14	39	446
	Male	253	145	0	0	0	10	32	440
16 to 18	Female	207	110	1	1	0	7	17	343
	Male	142	91	2	0	0	7	18	260
18+	Female	49	41	1	1	0	3	5	100
	Male	39	31	0	0	0	3	3	76
Total*		2,360	1,164	10	2	1	178	295	4,010

*Demographic information had not been entered into CHRIS for 20 children.

As the chart below shows 59 percent of the children in foster care during the quarter were white while 29 percent of the children were black. National data reveals that only 37 percent of the children in the national foster care system were white, while 38 percent of the children were black⁸.

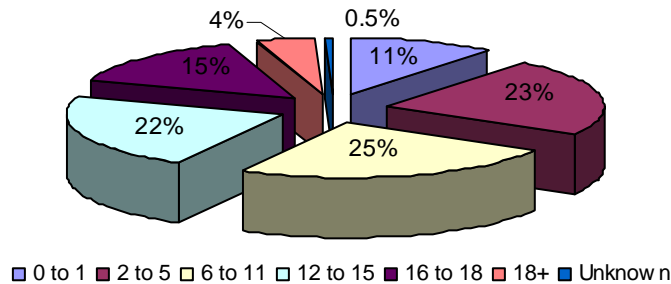
Chart 18a: Ethnicity of Children in Care During the Quarter



⁸ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

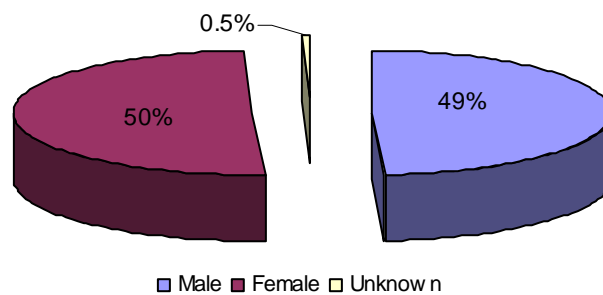
The following chart shows that children between the ages of 6 and 11 represented the largest group of children who were in care during the quarter. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 18b: Ages of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter



The following chart shows that 50 percent of the children in foster care during the quarter were female and 49 percent were male. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 18c: Gender of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter



There were 3,175 children in foster care at the end of the quarter, a decrease from the 3,249 children in care at the end of the first quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of the children in foster care at the end of the first quarter.

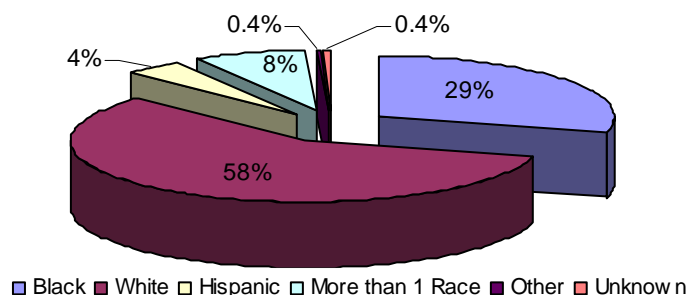
**Table 6: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	90	47	0	0	0	13	12	162
	Male	100	39	0	0	0	7	13	159
2 to 5	Female	183	93	2	0	0	21	25	324
	Male	221	81	0	0	1	19	28	350
6 to 11	Female	229	88	2	0	0	14	39	372
	Male	2532	104	2	0	0	19	31	409
12 to 15	Female	214	117	0	0	0	13	33	377
	Male	213	117	0	0	0	9	24	363
16 to 18	Female	192	113	2	2	0	4	19	331
	Male	142	99	2	0	0	9	19	271
18+	Female	11	8	0	0	0	1	0	20
	Male	9	13	0	0	0	0	1	23
Total*		1,857	918	10	2	1	129	244	3,161

*Demographic information had not been entered into CHRIS for 14 children.

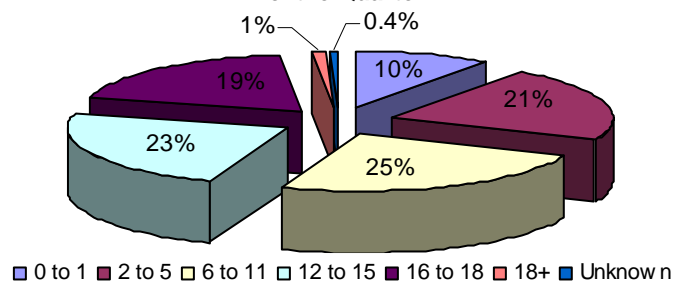
The chart below shows 58 percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were white, while 29 percent of the children were black. These percentages were similar to the previous quarter and similar to the percentages for children who were in care during the quarter.

Chart 19a: Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter



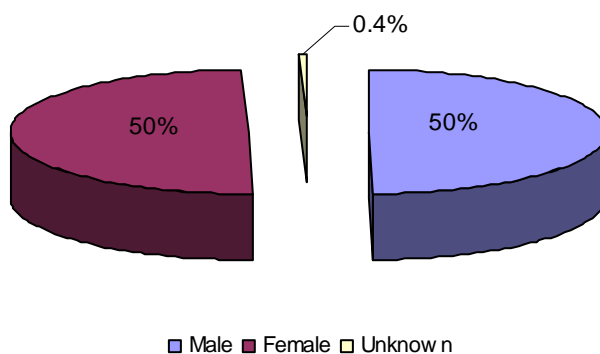
The following chart shows that children between the ages of 6 and 11 represented the largest group of children who were in care at the end of the quarter (25%).

Chart 19b: Ages of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter



The following chart shows that the gender of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter was closely distributed and similar to the percentages for children who were in care during the quarter.

Chart 19c: Gender of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter



Entries into Foster Care

The data showed that 890 children entered foster care during the first quarter, a decrease from the fourth quarter (971).

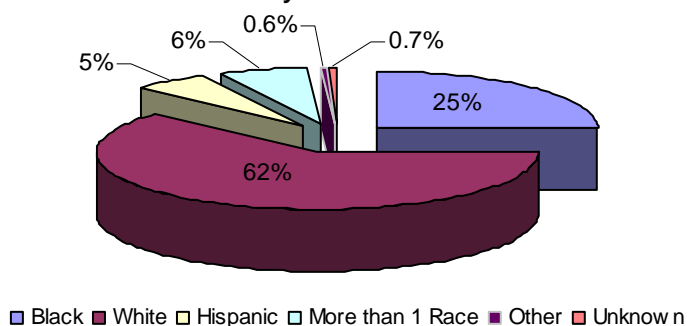
**Table 7: Characteristics of Children Entering Foster Care During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	46	19	0	0	0	7	7	79
	Male	52	15	0	0	0	2	3	72
2 to 5	Female	69	27	1	0	0	7	9	113
	Male	82	23	0	0	0	12	8	125
6 to 11	Female	70	28	2	0	0	6	12	118
	Male	68	28	2	0	0	7	3	108
12 to 15	Female	67	32	0	0	0	3	4	106
	Male	45	21	0	0	0	0	9	75
16 to 18	Female	32	21	0	0	0	2	0	55
	Male	22	8	0	0	0	2	1	33
Total*		553	222	5	0	0	48	56	884

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for six children.

The chart below shows 62 percent of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were white, while 25 percent of the children were black. National data indicates that 46 percent of the children who entered care were white, 28 percent were black and 16 percent were Hispanic⁹.

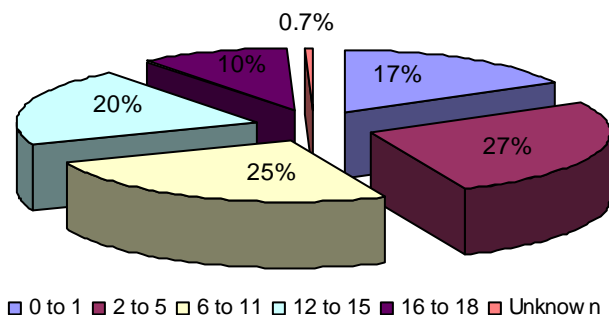
Chart 20a: Ethnicity of Children who Entered Care



⁹ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

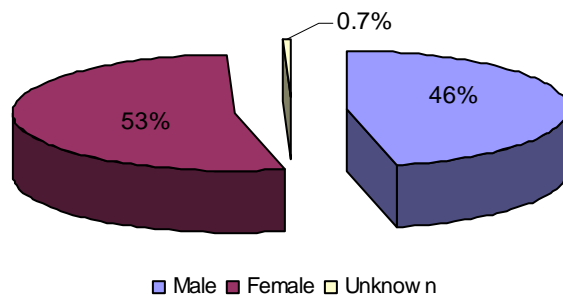
The following chart shows that children between the ages of 6 and 11 represented the largest group of children who entered foster care during the quarter.

Chart 20b: Ages of Children who Entered Care



The following chart shows the gender of the children who entered foster care during the first quarter. Of the 890 children who entered care, 46 percent of the children were male and 53 percent were female. These percentages were the same as the previous quarter.

Chart 20c: Gender of Children who Entered Care



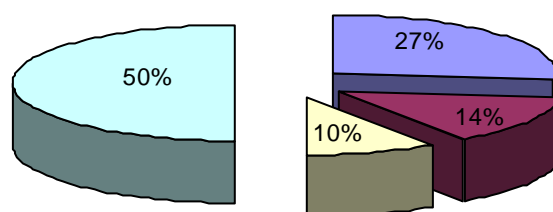
The reasons for entry into foster care for the children, who were in foster care during the quarter (Table 8), were very similar to those found in Table 9. Neglect and substance abuse¹⁰ were the most prevalent reasons children entered care.

**Table 8: Reasons Children in Care During the Quarter were Placed in Foster Care by Age
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	Total
Neglect	345	537	628	362	73	1	1,946
Substance Abuse	166	192	271	210	54	0	883
Parent Incarceration	114	189	206	149	20	1	679
Physical Abuse	115	164	222	151	44	1	697
Child's Behavior	3	17	115	276	99	0	499
Abandonment	49	78	115	112	43	0	397
Inadequate Housing	115	197	221	129	25	1	688
Caretaker Illness	85	99	124	151	44	1	504
Sexual Abuse	18	71	141	141	45	1	417
Truancy	2	17	40	80	36	0	175
Child's Disability	12	8	16	13	5	0	54
Parent Death	0	3	7	10	7	1	28
Sex Offender	5	2	9	25	5	0	46
Relinquishment	5	3	10	19	1	0	38
Adoption	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Managed Mental Health	0	0	3	12	3	0	18
Other	11	18	48	36	8	0	121
Teen Parent in Care	41	0	0	3	5	0	49
Total*	1,086	1,595	2,176	1,882	496	7	7,242

*There are more reasons for entry than children in care because a child may have more than one reason for entry.

**Chart 21: Reasons Children in Care During the
Quarter were Placed in Foster Care**



■ Neglect ■ Substance Abuse ■ Inadequate Housing ■ All Other Reasons

¹⁰ Of the 883 reasons for entry attributed to substance abuse, substance abuse by children accounted for 58 reasons for entry (7%), while substance abuse by parents accounted for 825 reasons for entry (93%).

Table 9: Reasons Children Placed in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005

	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
Neglect	<i>Female</i>	433	213	6	0	0	36	72	760
	<i>Male</i>	486	211	1	0	1	36	66	801
Substance Abuse	<i>Female</i>	236	77	0	0	0	6	16	335
	<i>Male</i>	222	73	0	0	0	9	30	334
Parent Incarceration	<i>Female</i>	167	67	1	0	0	13	25	273
	<i>Male</i>	162	49	2	0	0	14	27	254
Physical Abuse	<i>Female</i>	121	97	0	0	0	8	21	247
	<i>Male</i>	148	90	0	0	0	10	10	258
Child's Behavior	<i>Female</i>	132	62	1	1	0	2	10	208
	<i>Male</i>	127	68	2	0	0	9	13	219
Abandonment	<i>Female</i>	72	62	0	0	0	10	10	154
	<i>Male</i>	87	67	0	0	1	7	4	166
Inadequate Housing	<i>Female</i>	151	65	2	0	0	19	29	266
	<i>Male</i>	174	67	1	0	0	18	22	282
Caretaker Illness	<i>Female</i>	132	39	0	1	0	7	10	189
	<i>Male</i>	144	54	1	0	0	7	20	226
Sexual Abuse	<i>Female</i>	163	48	1	1	0	10	16	239
	<i>Male</i>	67	14	0	0	0	5	8	94
Truancy	<i>Female</i>	50	22	0	1	0	2	1	76
	<i>Male</i>	41	18	0	0	0	1	2	62
Child's Disability	<i>Female</i>	15	5	0	0	0	0	1	21
	<i>Male</i>	20	6	0	0	0	1	2	29
Parent Death	<i>Female</i>	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
	<i>Male</i>	7	6	1	0	0	0	2	16
Sex Offender	<i>Female</i>	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	9
	<i>Male</i>	22	5	0	0	0	3	2	32
Relinquishment	<i>Female</i>	9	9	0	0	0	0	1	19
	<i>Male</i>	10	5	0	0	0	0	1	16
Managed Mental Health	<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	<i>Male</i>	7	4	0	0	0	1	0	12
Adoption	<i>Female</i>	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	<i>Male</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teen Parent in Care	<i>Female</i>	18	8	0	0	0	1	0	27
	<i>Male</i>	9	5	0	0	0	1	2	17
Other	<i>Female</i>	20	19	0	0	0	0	4	43
	<i>Male</i>	35	26	0	0	0	0	2	63
Total*		3,502	1,565	19	4	2	236	431	5,759

*There are more reasons for entry than children in care because a child may have more than one reason for entry.

Exits from Foster Care

There were 877 children who left foster care during the quarter, which represented a five percent decrease in the number of children who left foster care during the previous quarter (922).

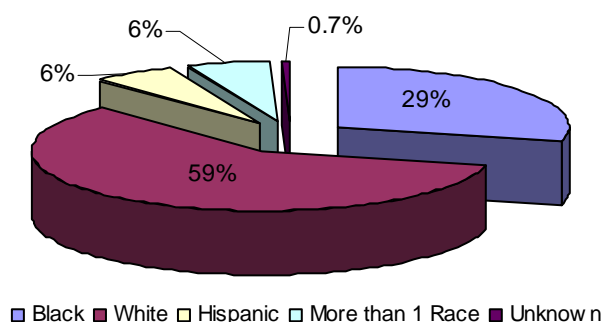
**Table 10: Characteristics of Children Exiting Foster Care During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	30	15	0	0	0	3	6	54
	Male	46	14	0	0	0	1	0	61
2 to 5	Female	76	33	0	0	0	7	2	118
	Male	70	40	0	0	0	13	8	131
6 to 11	Female	65	35	0	0	0	10	13	123
	Male	57	32	0	0	0	7	4	100
12 to 15	Female	50	14	0	0	0	1	6	71
	Male	39	28	0	0	0	1	8	76
16 to 18	Female	53	31	0	0	0	5	3	92
	Male	27	7	0	0	0	1	1	36
18+	Female	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Male	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total*		518	253	0	0	0	49	51	871

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for six children.

Of the 877 children who left foster care, 59 percent were white, while 29 percent of the children who left care were black. National data indicates that 45 percent of the children who left foster care were white and 30 percent were black¹¹.

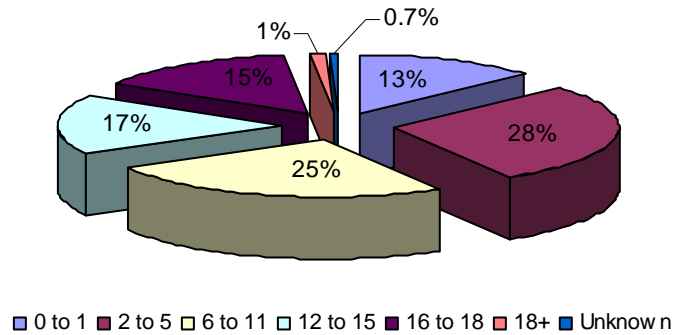
Chart 22a: Ethnicity of Children who Exited Care



¹¹ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

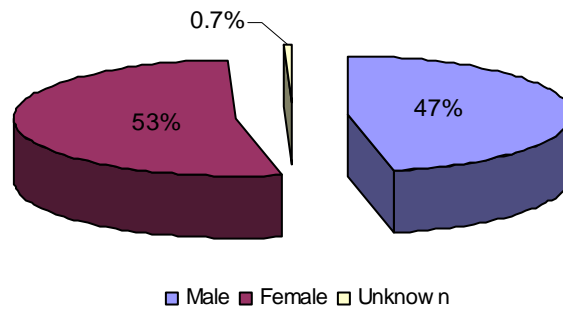
The following chart shows that children between the ages of two and five represented the highest percentage of children (28%) who left foster care during the quarter.

Chart 22b: Ages of Children who Exited Care



Fifty-three percent of the children who left care during the quarter were female and 47 percent of the children were male.

Chart 22c: Gender of Children who Exited Care



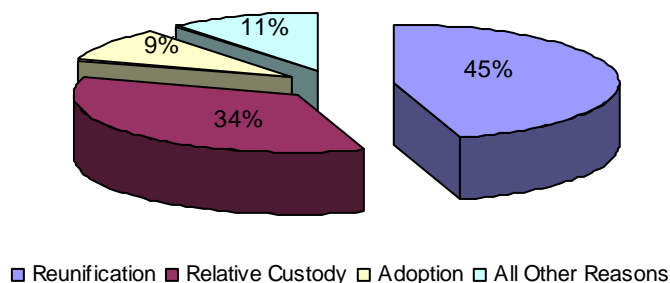
**Table 11: Reasons Children Exited Foster Care by Age
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Reason	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	
Reunification	52	118	111	73	44	0	397
Relative Custody	45	87	81	62	27	0	302
Adoption	12	35	28	8	0	0	83
Child Aged Out	0	0	0	0	47	9	56
Non-Relative Custody	3	7	3	3	5	0	21
Emancipation	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Custody Transfer	2	2	0	1	1	0	6
Total*	115	249	223	147	128	9	871

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for six children.

The most prevalent reason children left foster care during the quarter was for reunification (45%). The second most prevalent reason a child left care was for relative custody (34%), followed by adoption (9%). National data indicated the three most prevalent reasons children left care were reunification (57%), adoption (18%) and relative care (10 %) ¹².

Chart 23: Most Prevalent Reasons Children Left Care



¹² Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for children in foster care between 10/01/2000 and 9/30/2001 as of March 2003.

Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care

The Division has two primary goals for children in foster care: that they are safe and that they are placed in a permanent home. The second of these concerns is expressed by setting a permanency goal for each child in foster care. For children in care at the end of the first quarter, more children had the goal of returning home than any other goal. National data reveal very similar figures to those shown here¹³.

**Table 12: Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care
4th Quarter SFY 2004 – 1st Quarter SFY 2005**

	4th Quarter		1st Quarter		National
Return Home	1,460	45%	1,358	43%	44%
Adoption	748	23%	743	23%	22%
Independence	499	15%	496	16%	n/a
Remain at Home	149	5%	183	6%	n/a
Relative Care	138	4%	102	3%	5%
Guardianship	15	.5%	17	.54%	3%
Emancipation	0	0%	0	0%	6%
Long Term Care	0	0%	0	0%	8%
Not Yet Established	240	7%	276	9%	11%
Total*	3,249	100%	3,175	100%	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

¹³ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2001 (10/01/00 to 9/30/01) as of March 2003.

Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care

For the 4,030 children in care during the quarter, 54 percent had been in care less than one year. Comparison to national data indicates that children in Arkansas' foster care system stay in care a decidedly shorter amount of time¹⁴.

**Table 13a: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

	Number	Percentage	National
Less than 30 days	532	13%	4%
30-90 Days	462	12%	17%
3-6 Months	496	12%	
6-12 Months	669	17%	15%
12-24 Months	791	20%	20%
24-36 Months	439	11%	12%
36+ Months	641	16%	32%
Total*	4,030	100%	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Table 13b: Length of Stay of Children in Relative Care
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

	Number	Percentage*
Less than 30 days	2	2%
30-90 Days	1	1%
3-6 Months	12	14%
6-12 Months	17	20%
12-24 Months	22	25%
24-36 Months	14	16%
36+ Months	19	22%
Total	87	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Table 13c: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care (Excluding Relative Care)
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 days	530	13%
30-90 Days	461	12%
3-6 Months	484	12%
6-12 Months	652	17%
12-24 Months	769	19%
24-36 Months	425	11%
36+ Months	622	16%
Total	3,943	100%

¹⁴ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2001 (10/01/00 to 9/30/01) as of March 2003.

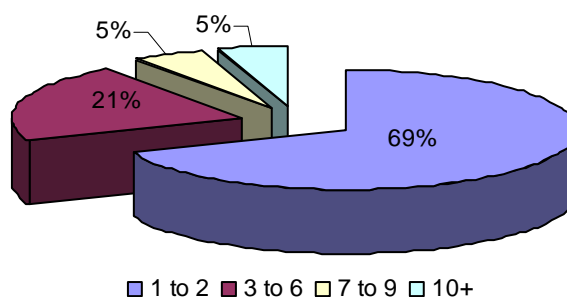
Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care

For the first quarter of SFY 2005, 69 percent of the children in care at the end of the quarter had experienced fewer than three placements, the same as the previous quarter.

**Table 14: Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care
4th Quarter SFY 2004 – 1st Quarter SFY 2005**

	4 th Quarter		1st Quarter	
1-2 Placements	2,238	69%	2,177	69%
3-6 Placements	691	21%	677	21%
7-9 Placements	167	5%	160	5%
10+ Placements	153	5%	161	5%
Total	3,249	100%	3,175	100%

Chart 24: Number of Placements for Children in Care at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements

There were 3,175 children in care at the end of the quarter. Of those, 1,383 children experienced two or more placements while in foster care.

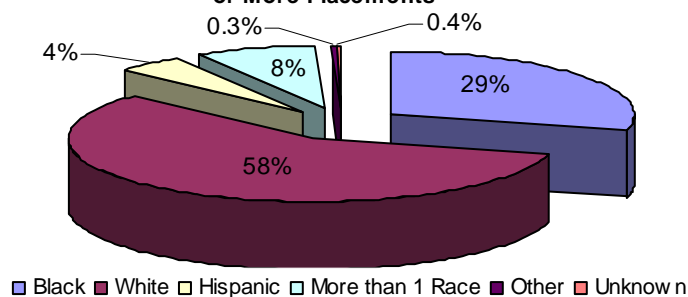
**Table 15: Characteristics of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	11	14	0	0	0	5	0	30
	Male	14	6	0	0	0	3	1	24
2 to 5	Female	48	18	1	0	0	8	9	84
	Male	71	22	0	0	0	7	12	112
6 to 11	Female	92	28	0	0	0	5	15	140
	Male	117	41	0	0	0	10	16	184
12 to 15	Female	121	67	0	0	0	7	22	217
	Male	130	74	0	0	0	6	9	219
16 to 18	Female	111	63	0	1	0	1	13	189
	Male	87	60	2	0	0	6	14	169
18+	Female	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
Total		804	400	3	1	0	58	112	1,378

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for five children.

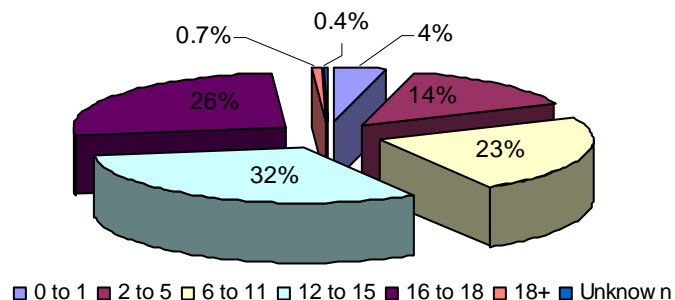
Of the 1,383 children who experienced two or more placements, 58 percent were white and 29 percent were black. These percentages were similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 25a: Ethnicity of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



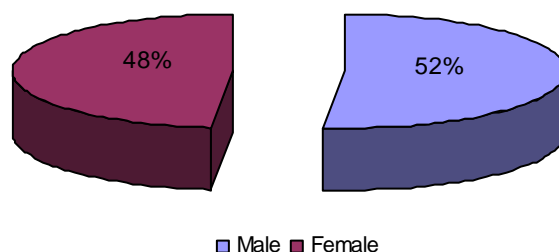
The largest group of children who experienced two or more placements was children between the ages of 12 and 15.

Chart 25b: Ages of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



There were more male children than female children who experienced two or more placements, the same as the previous quarter.

Chart 25c: Gender of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



Current Placement of Children in Foster Care

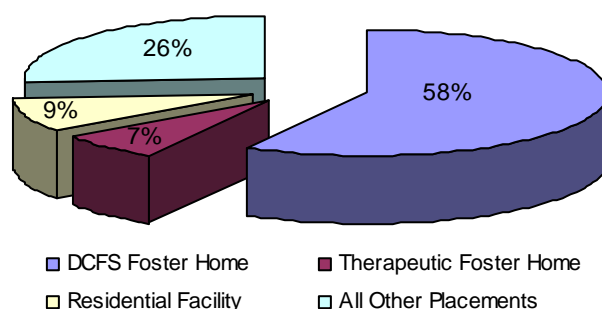
More foster children were placed in DCFS foster homes (58%) at the end of the first quarter than in any other type of foster care placement.

Table 16: Current Placement of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter

Placement	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	Over 18	
DCFS Foster Home	278	536	467	326	211	41	1,859
Relative Care	3	20	27	20	5	0	75
Therapeutic Foster Home	0	24	95	72	40	7	238
Specialized Community Home	1	5	10	32	32	21	101
Pre-Adoptive Home	12	34	63	23	13	1	146
Emergency Shelter	4	11	23	29	13	1	81
Residential Facility	4	9	39	116	108	8	284
Youth Services	0	0	0	11	13	2	26
Runaway	0	0	0	19	35	3	57
Trial Home Visit	16	32	34	22	16	2	122
Hospital/Medical	0	1	2	25	13	0	41
Community Service Organization	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Sexual Offender Treatment	0	0	0	10	5	2	17
Detention	0	0	0	4	3	2	9
Independent Living	0	0	0	0	3	24	27
Medical Provider	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mental Health Provider	0	1	7	9	6	0	23
Hospital	2	0	2	4	1	0	9
Therapy/Counseling	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Acute Psych. Hospital	0	0	12	10	6	0	28
Unknown*	5	5	2	6	6	3	27
Total	325	680	783	740	529	118	3,175

*Unknown due to data entry after report completion.

Chart 26: Current Placement of Children in Foster Care



Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter

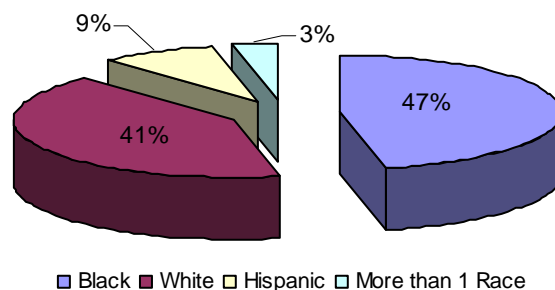
For the first quarter, there were 57 children on runaway status at the end of the quarter. This represented a small increase from the previous quarter (54).

**Table 17: Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 to 5	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 to 11	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 to 15	Female	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	15
	Male	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
16 to 18	Female	11	10	0	0	0	2	1	24
	Male	3	8	0	0	0	3	1	15
Total		24	27	0	0	0	5	2	58

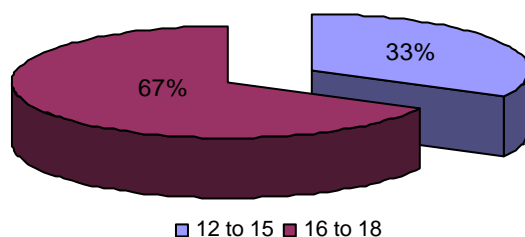
Of the children on runaway status at the end of the quarter, 41 percent were white and 47 percent were black. This represented a shift from the previous quarter where 37 percent of the children were white and 43 percent were black.

Chart 27a: Ethnicity of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



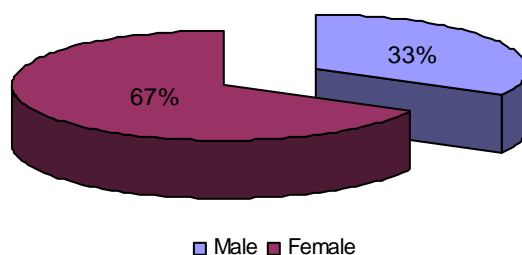
Seventy-eight percent of the children who were on runaway status at the end of the quarter were between the ages of 16 and 18.

Chart 27b: Ages of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



There were more female children (67%) than male children (33%) who were on runaway status at the end of the quarter, the same as the previous quarter.

Chart 27c: Gender of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children in Relative Care

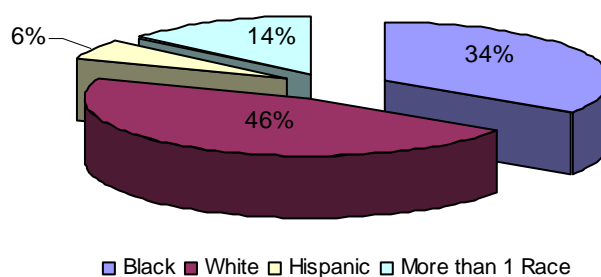
During the first quarter, there were 87 children in relative care, a small decrease from the previous quarter (90). The following table outlines the characteristics of children who were in relative care.

**Table 18: Characteristics of Children in Relative Care
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

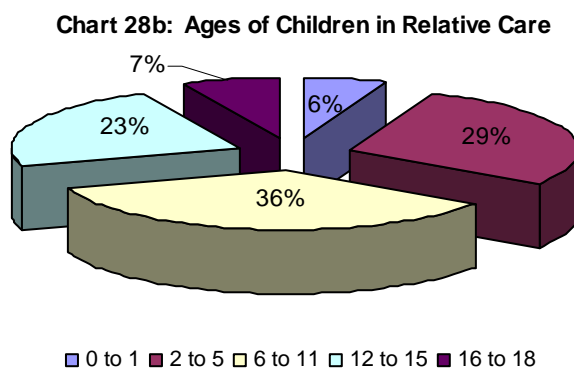
Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2 to 5	Female	5	5	0	0	0	4	1	15
	Male	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	10
6 to 11	Female	11	3	0	0	0	0	3	17
	Male	8	2	0	0	0	0	4	14
12 to 15	Female	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Male	5	5	0	0	0	0	3	13
16 to 18	Female	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	4
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		40	30	0	0	0	5	12	87

White children represented the highest percentage of children (46%) in relative care for the first quarter, the same as the previous quarter.

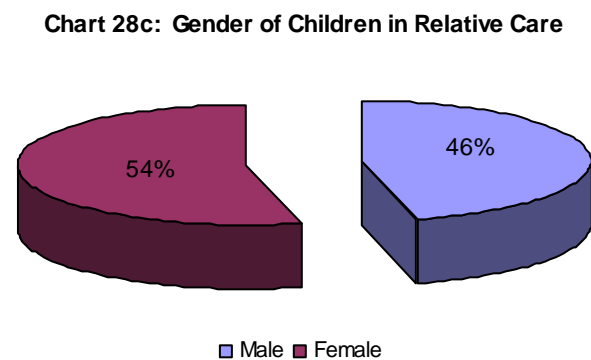
Chart 28a: Ethnicity of Children in Relative Care



Children between the ages of 6 and 11 represented the largest age group of children in relative care, followed by children between the ages of two and five.



Of the 87 children who were in relative care during the quarter, 54 percent were female and 46 percent were male. These percentages were similar to the previous quarter.



Part III: Description of Population and Services
Section III: Adoption

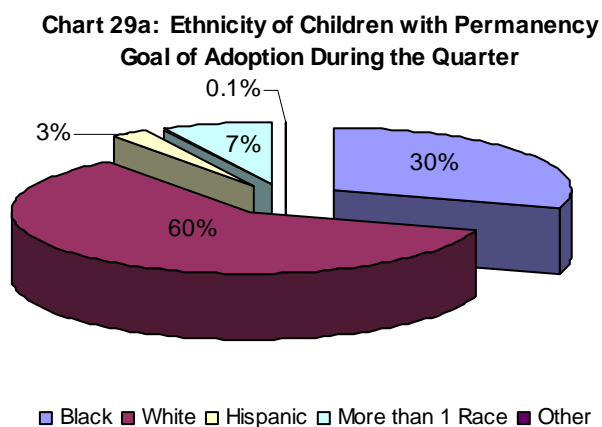
Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter

There were 820 children with the permanency goal of adoption during the quarter. The table below outlines the characteristics of children with the permanency goal of adoption.

**Table 19: Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

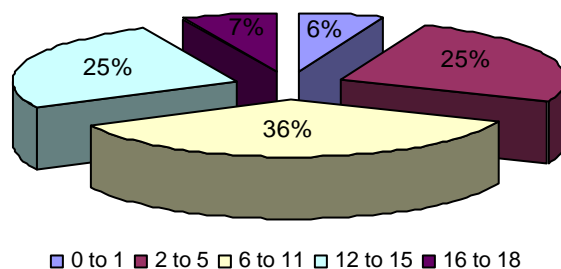
Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	13	10	0	0	0	2	3	28
	Male	15	5	0	0	0	2	0	22
2 to 5	Female	57	37	0	0	0	5	4	103
	Male	64	34	0	0	1	2	4	105
6 to 11	Female	83	33	0	0	0	4	15	135
	Male	99	44	0	0	0	3	14	160
12 to 15	Female	57	28	0	0	0	2	6	93
	Male	65	40	0	0	0	2	9	116
16 to 18	Female	22	8	0	0	0	0	2	32
	Male	17	6	0	0	0	0	3	26
Total		492	245	0	0	1	22	60	820

Of the 820 children whose permanency goal was adoption during the quarter, 60 percent were white, 30 percent were black and 3 percent were Hispanic. This was similar to the previous quarter.



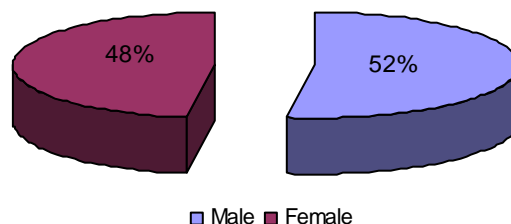
Children between the ages of 6 and 11 represented the largest group of children with a permanency goal of adoption.

Chart 29b: Ages of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



Of the 820 children whose permanency goal was adoption, 52 percent were male and 48 percent were female.

Chart 29c: Gender of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter

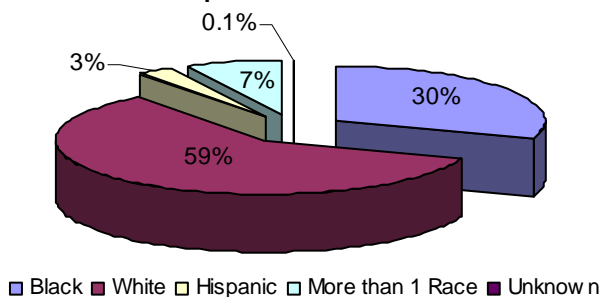
There were 741 children whose permanency goal at the end of the quarter was adoption. The table below outlines the characteristics of those children.

**Table 20: Characteristics of Children with the Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	12	10	0	0	0	2	2	26
	Male	10	4	0	0	0	2	0	16
2 to 5	Female	39	34	0	0	0	5	4	82
	Male	56	29	0	0	1	1	3	90
6 to 11	Female	77	25	0	0	0	4	14	120
	Male	91	41	0	0	0	3	12	147
12 to 15	Female	54	28	0	0	0	2	6	90
	Male	62	39	0	0	0	2	9	112
16 to 18	Female	22	8	0	0	0	0	2	32
	Male	17	6	0	0	0	0	3	26
Total		440	224	0	0	1	21	55	741

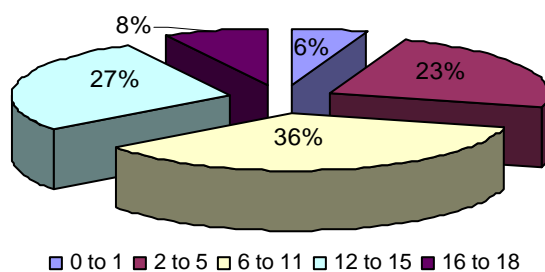
There were 741 children whose permanency goal was adoption at the end of the quarter. Of those, 59 percent were white, 30 percent were black and 7 percent were of more than one ethnicity. These percentages were similar to those children whose permanency goal was adoption during the quarter.

Chart 30a: Ethnicity of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter



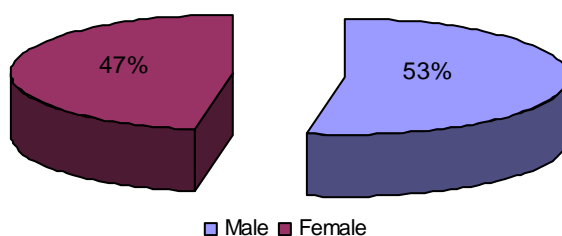
Children between the ages of 6 and 11 continued to represent the largest age group with a permanency goal of adoption at the end of quarter and children between the ages of 12 and 15 represented the second largest group.

Chart 30b: Ages of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter



There were more male children (53%) than female children (47%) with the permanency goal of adoption at the end of the first quarter.

Chart 30c: Gender of Children with Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children whose Parents had Parental Rights Terminated During the Quarter

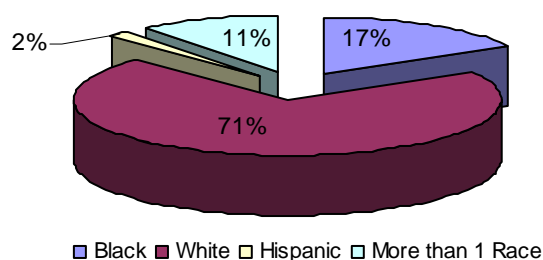
There were 66 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the first quarter. The table below outlines the characteristics of those children.

**Table 21: Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Male	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
2 to 5	Female	6	3	0	0	0	0	4	13
	Male	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
6 to 11	Female	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Male	14	0	0	0	0	0	3	17
12 to 15	Female	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
16 to 18	Female	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		47	11	0	0	0	1	7	66

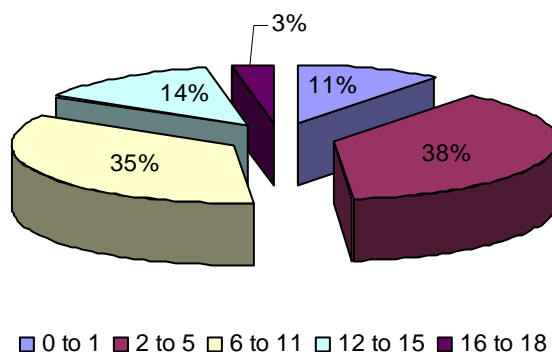
Seventy-one percent of the children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the quarter were white, while 17 percent of the children were black.

Chart 31a: Ethnicity of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



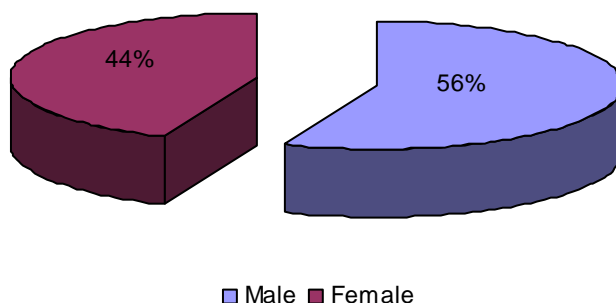
Children between the ages of two and five represented the largest group of children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the quarter.

Chart 31b: Ages of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



There were more male children than female children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the quarter, same as the previous quarter.

Chart 31c: Gender of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter

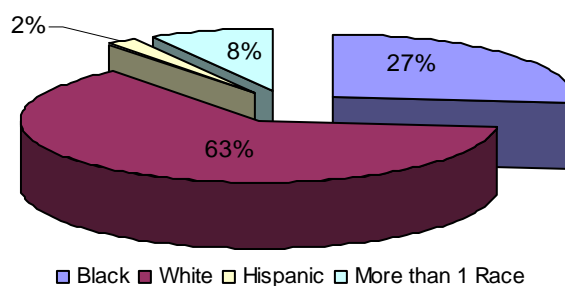
There were 463 children available for adoption at the end of the first quarter. Demographic information for children available for adoption, shown in the table below, is very similar to previous reports.

**Table 22: Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	7
	Male	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	6
2 to 5	Female	20	19	0	0	0	2	3	44
	Male	27	19	0	0	0	1	3	50
6 to 11	Female	47	14	0	0	0	2	7	70
	Male	64	18	0	0	0	1	8	91
12 to 15	Female	40	15	0	0	0	2	5	62
	Male	49	25	0	0	0	1	8	83
16 to 18	Female	21	5	0	0	0	0	2	28
	Male	16	4	0	0	0	0	2	22
Total		290	124	0	0	0	10	39	463

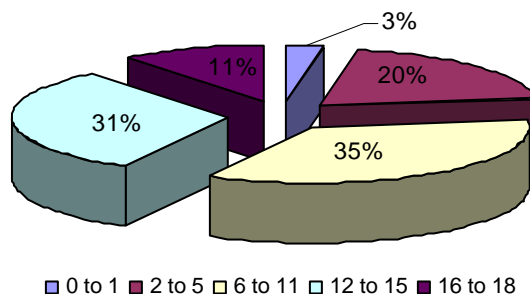
Of the children available for adoption, 63 percent were white and 27 percent were black. These percentages were similar to the previous quarter.

**Chart 32a: Ethnicity of Children Available for Adoption
at the End of the Quarter**



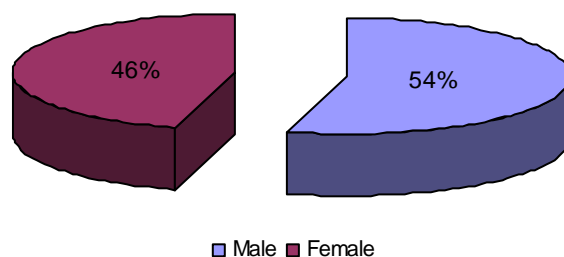
There were more children between the ages of 6 and 11 available for adoption at the end of the quarter than any other age group.

Chart 32b: Ages of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



There were more male children available for adoption than female children at the end of the quarter. Fifty-four percent of the children were male and 46 percent of the children were female.

Chart 32c: Gender of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



Current Placement of Children Available for Adoption

More children available for adoption at the end of the first quarter were placed in DCFS foster homes (43%) than in any other type of placement, followed by adoptive homes. The results are the similar to the previous quarter.

**Table 23: Current Placement of Children Available for Adoption
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Placement	Number of Children	Percentage
DCFS Foster Home	197	43%
Pre-Adoptive Home	72	16%
Pre-Adoptive Home (Relative)	0	0%
Pre-Adoptive Home (Foster Parent)	31	7%
Therapeutic Foster Home	68	15%
Relative Care	13	3%
Specialized Community Home	23	5%
Residential Facility	31	7%
Hospital/Medical	23	5%
Emergency Shelter	4	1%
Youth Services	3	.6%
Sexual Offender Treatment	3	.6%
Runaway	1	.2%
Total*	463	100%

*The sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Characteristics of Children in a Pre-adoptive Placement

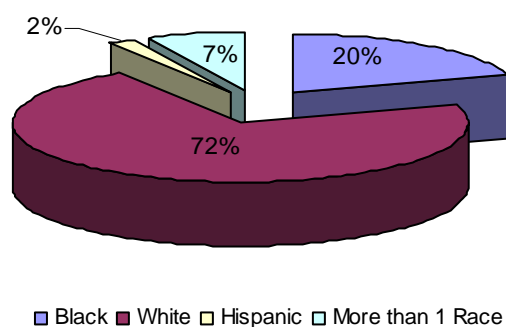
There were 158 children in pre-adoptive homes during the first quarter. This includes children who could have entered a pre-adoptive home during a previous quarter as well as children who were placed in pre-adoptive homes during the current quarter.

**Table 24: Characteristics of Children in a Pre-adoptive Placement
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
	Male	7	2	0	0	0	1	0	10
2 to 5	Female	26	5	0	0	0	0	0	31
	Male	9	8	0	0	0	1	2	20
6 to 11	Female	22	8	0	0	0	0	2	32
	Male	23	4	0	0	0	0	4	31
12 to 15	Female	9	1	0	0	0	1	2	13
	Male	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	10
16 to 18	Female	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Male	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total		113	31	0	0	0	3	11	158

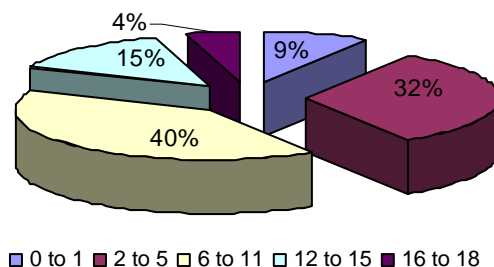
Of the 158 children in a pre-adoptive home during the quarter, 72 percent were white, 20 percent were black and 2 percent was Hispanic.

Chart 33a: Ethnicity of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



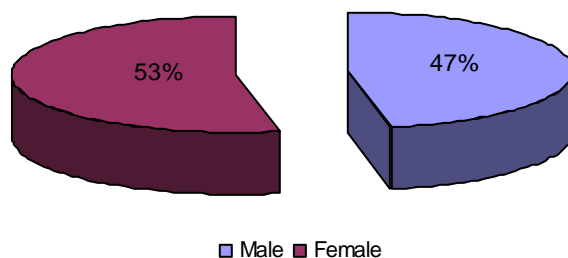
The largest group of children who were placed in pre-adoptive homes was between the ages of 6 and 11. The smallest percentage of children placed in pre-adoptive placements was children who were between the ages of 16 and 18.

33b: Ages of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



Of the 158 children placed in pre-adoptive homes during the quarter, 53 percent were female and 47 percent male. This represented a shift from the previous quarter where the majority of the children were male (56%).

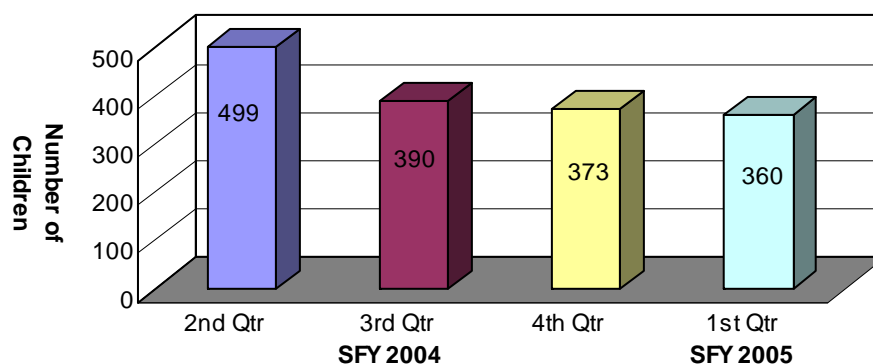
33c: Gender of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



Children not Placed in an Adoptive Home whose Parents have had their Parental Rights Terminated

There were 360 children whose parental rights were terminated who were not placed in an adoptive home, a decrease from the previous quarter (373). This number was derived by subtracting the number of children placed in adoptive homes at the end of the quarter (103) from the number of children available for adoption at the end of the quarter (463).

Chart 34: Children not Placed in an Adoptive Home whose Parents have had their Parental Rights Terminated



Children with Special Needs

There were 90 children with special needs who were in a pre-adoptive placement during the first quarter¹⁵. Children with special needs are defined as children who have severe medical or psychological needs that require ongoing treatment. Children at high risk for the development of serious physical, mental or emotional conditions may be considered special needs if documentation is provided by a medical professional specializing in the area of the condition for which the child is considered at risk. Other children may be considered special needs if they are a Caucasian child over the age of nine, an African American child who is two years old or older or a child who is a member of a sibling group of three or more that are to be placed together.

**Table 25: Children with Special Needs who were Placed in Adoptive Homes
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Special Need Condition	Number of Children
Race	56
Age	87
Member of sibling group	17

Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoption

There were 62 children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter, a decrease from the previous quarter (93). The following table outlines the characteristics of the children with finalized adoptions.

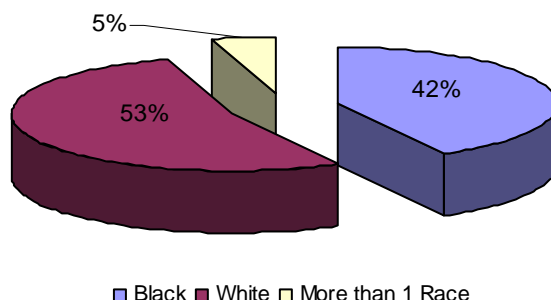
**Table 26: Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
2 to 5	Female	12	3	0	0	0	0	1	16
	Male	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	9
6 to 11	Female	2	8	0	0	0	0	1	11
	Male	6	4	0	0	0	0	1	11
12 to 15	Female	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total		33	26	0	0	0	0	3	62

¹⁵ This number does not take into account children with severe medical and psychological needs because this data is not available in CHRIS (AR Children's Reporting and Information System). As enhancements are made to the data system to capture this information, it will be provided in future reports.

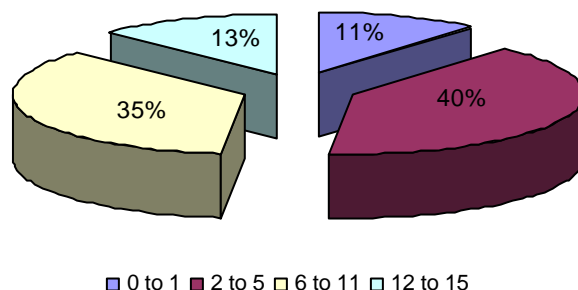
There were 62 children whose adoptions were finalized during the first quarter. Of those, 53 percent were white and 42 percent were black.

Chart 35a: Ethnicity of Children with Finalized Adoptions



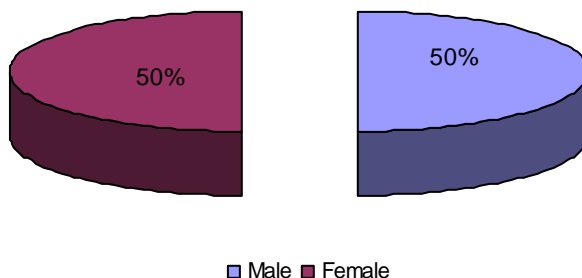
Children between the ages of two and five represented the largest group of children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter.

Chart 35b: Ages of Children with Finalized Adoptions



There gender of the children whose adoption was finalized during the quarter was evenly divided, 50 percent were male and 50 percent were female.

Chart 35c: Gender of Children with Finalized Adoptions



Subsidized Adoptions

There were 59 children who began receiving adoption subsidies during the first quarter. All children received federally funded subsidies.

Characteristics of Children who Received Adoption Subsidies

There were 2,300 children receiving adoption subsidies during the first quarter. The following table outlines the demographics of those children.

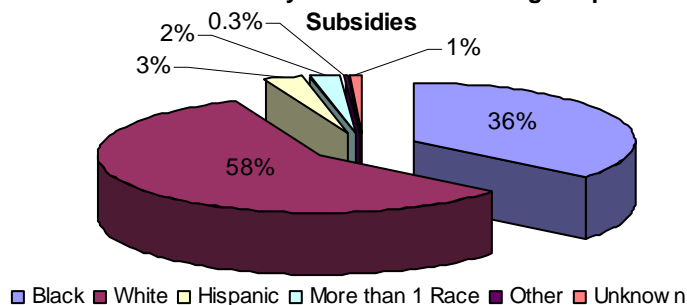
**Table 27: Characteristics of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
	Male	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	6
2 to 5	Female	106	53	0	0	0	8	13	180
	Male	110	57	0	0	0	11	13	191
6 to 11	Female	246	175	2	1	0	17	16	457
	Male	288	173	0	1	0	8	8	478
12 to 15	Female	190	128	1	1	0	6	0	326
	Male	210	135	0	0	0	6	0	351
16 to 18	Female	94	49	0	0	0	3	1	147
	Male	73	43	1	0	0	2	0	119
18+	Female	8	7	0	0	0	0	0	15
	Male	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total*		1,335	825	4	3	0	62	52	2,281

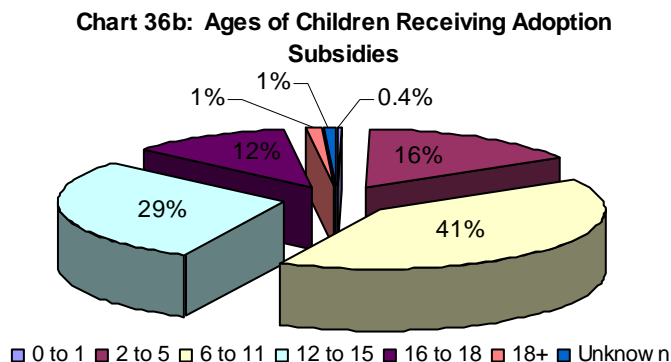
*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 19 children.

Fifty-eight percent of the children receiving adoption subsidies were white, while 36 percent were black.

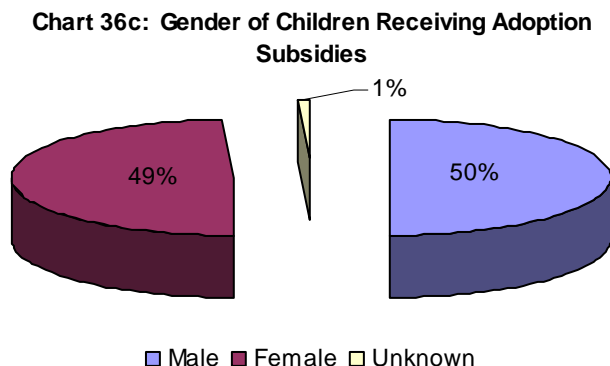
Chart 36a: Ethnicity of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies



The majority of the children receiving adoption subsidies during the quarter were between the ages of 6 and 11.



Of the children receiving adoption subsidies, 50 percent were male and 49 percent were female.



Non-Foster Adoptive Homes

There were 186 adoptive homes available at the beginning of the quarter and 185 adoptive homes available at the end of the first quarter.

**Table 28: Non-Foster Adoptive Homes
1st Quarter SFY 2005**

Homes available for children at beginning of quarter	186
Newly available homes	35
Homes that had children placed during the quarter	20
Home that experienced a disruption	0
Homes that closed without a placement	16
Homes available at the end of the quarter	185